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1. The leaders of the Communist Labor Party of Colombia (PCO) have concluded that they cannot hope to reach any agreement with the Communist Party of Colombia (PCG) for reuniting the two factions. The PCO has decided to carry out Marxist programs and to avoid direct conflict with the PCG, if possible. The PCO believes that it will gain strength by infiltrating the Colombian labor unions, rather than by following the policies of the larger PCG in its efforts to secure an advantage in the coming elections. The National Committee of the PCO is also considering the advisability of accusing the PCG of being an anti-Lenin group.
2. In a recent letter to Jorge E. Bayona, PCO Treasurer, Augusto Duran, PCO Secretary General, said that a general meeting of the Magdalena River workers and the dock workers of Barranquilla and Cartagena, which would be held in the near future, would be of great importance. Although no definite date has been set for the meeting, Duran believes that its decisions would serve as a guide for activities on a national scale of the affiliates of the Confederation of Colombian Workers (CTC).
3. Duran identified the two most important and restless labor groups which he believed would be open to Communist agitation.
 - a. The first group was the road workers, a majority of whom belong to the Liberal Party, while the supervisors and engineers are Conservatives. Continuous disagreement exists between the two. A further cause for discontent among them is the refusal of the Minister of Public Works to grant the wage increase and the improved living and working conditions which they had demanded some time ago. The PCO would have an excellent opportunity to agitate among the road workers since its offices are in the same building as those of the National Road Workers' Federation.
 - b. The second group is the Magdalena River workers' union, Federation Nacional de Transportes Fluvial, Maritimo, Portuario y Aereo (National Federation of River, Sea, Port, and Air Transportation - FEDENAL), which has been unable to arrive at any agreement with the Government or the navigation companies after protracted negotiations. The problem has been aggravated by the recent withdrawal from the negotiations by Ismael Escamilla, leader of FEDENAL, and a member of the Central Executive Committee of the PCO.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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4. Bayona, a Deputy in the Cundinamarca Departmental Assembly, believes that there are certain factors which encourage a general movement of protest against the Conservative Government. He added that the Communists would have to defend the interests of the people, since the Liberals had shown themselves incapable of carrying out a broad social program on a popular basis. The following factors indicate the ineffectiveness of the Government, according to Bayona:
- a. The electoral reform, approved on 10 December 1948, which has caused a great deal of discontent among the Liberals. The leaders of the Liberal Party had agreed to it, but many Liberal congressmen opposed it and would not attend the session at which it was passed.
 - b. An investigation of the preparation made for the IX Pan American Conference and the accompanying publicity, which have caused discontent among the poorer classes, who believe that those who made the preparations enriched themselves at the expense of the nation.
 - c. The poor record of the present Congress, which has been accused of doing nothing for the working classes while considering a bill to increase its own salaries.
 - d. The increased high cost of living, which is blamed on the Price Control Office.

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